

XXIV.—Notices of Recent Ornithological Publications.

[Continued from p. 119.]

32. 'The Auk.'

['The Auk,' a Quarterly Journal of Ornithology. Vol. III. No. 4, October 1886; Vol. IV. No. 1, January 1887.]

In the October Part there are, as might be expected, several interesting articles on American ornithology; Mr. Henshaw describes a new Jay, *Aphelocoma insularis*, from Santa Cruz, one of the Santa Barbara Islands, off California; and Mr. Cory continues his list of Birds of the West Indies. His supplementary paper, descriptive of 13 new species from Grand Cayman, has already received special notice in our last issue. (*antea*, p. 124). Dr. R. W. Shufeldt's reproduction of the photograph of an old portrait of Audubon by himself, with remarks upon some of his earlier drawings, will excite interest among those to whom that explorer's works rank as classics. Mr. Lucas has a paper on the affinities of *Chætura*, which has elicited a reply in the January number from Dr. Shufeldt, who has also his hands full with a discussion respecting the classification of the Macrochires with Dr. Stejneger. The observations of Mr. Lucas on the Procelariidæ observed on a voyage round Cape Horn and up the west coast of South America may be compared with the remarks on sea-birds by Mr. S. Swinburne, noticed in our present issue (*infra*, p. 255). Mr. Cory describes (p. 6) *Vireo caymanensis*, sp. n., from Grand Cayman, and suggests the name of *Zenaida richardsoni* for a Dove from Little Cayman, in case it should prove distinct from *Z. spadicea*; he also continues (p. 37) his list of the Birds of the West Indies. Mr. G. B. Sennett describes (p. 28), as new, *Parus atricristatus castaneifrons* and *Parus bicolor texensis*, both from Southern Texas. Dr. Stejneger's further remarks on the genus *Acanthis* will be read with interest by students of the Palæarctic avifauna, and in their hands we must leave this group of Linnets. It is satisfactory to learn that, on the whole, the Reports of the Committee were favourable, especially that on the Migration of Birds, on the occa-

sion of the fourth meeting of the American Ornithologists' Union; and we note with pleasure the amount of energy in collecting displayed on the other side of the water. Mr. M. A. Frazar is on his way to explore the peninsula of Lower California and the adjacent islands for Mr. Brewster; Mr. Charles H. Townsend has sailed for Yucatan under the auspices of the U.S. Fish Commission; and Mr. Herbert H. Smith has returned from Brazil with about 7000 specimens of 450 species, principally from the little-known Brazilian Province of Matto Grosso, on the head waters of the Paraguay River.

33. *Barboza du Bocage on Dupont's Lark in Portugal.*

[Note sur la découverte en Portugal d'une variété de la *Certhilauda duponti*. Par J. V. Barboza du Bocage. Journ. Soc. Lisboa, no. xlv. p. 3 (1887).]

The discovery of a supposed variety of Dupont's Lark, apparently *resident* on the south side of the Tagus, opposite Lisbon, is very interesting. Hitherto the occurrence of this African form in the Iberian Peninsula rested upon three specimens, all young birds obtained in the month of November of various years, near Malaga, and sent to Saunders by his excellent collector the late Don Feo. de los Rios. As Dr. Barboza du Bocage has already obtained three specimens, we shall probably hear more about this species or variety ere long. It is distinguished as *Certhilauda duponti*, var. *lusitanica*.

34. *Belgian Ornithological Report.*

[Compte Rendu des Observations Ornithologiques faites en Belgique pendant l'année 1885. Bull. Mus. Roy. d'Hist. Nat. de Belgique, iv. pp. 177-210.]

Dr. Alphonse Dubois, who signs this Report, has received assistance from brother ornithologists at Brussels, Hasselt, Carlsbourg, the Blankenberghe, Knocke, Ostend, and Nieuport lighthouses, and some minor localities. The observations, principally but not entirely on migrations, are, so far, of considerable interest, and refer to 171 species; but Dr. Dubois hopes to have more extended aid in following years,

and to increase the list. The systematic arrangement is certainly peculiar, commencing with the Picariæ, followed by the Passeres, after which come the Columbæ, then Striges and Accipitres, Gallinæ, and so on.

35. *Bianchi on a new Shrike.*

[Ueber einen neuen Würger aus der Untergattung *Otomela* (*Otomela bogdanowi*). Von V. Bianchi. Bull. Acad. Imp. d. Sci. St. Pétersb. xxx. p. 514 (1886).]

Otomela bogdanowi was discovered by Herr Nikolski in the province of Astrabad, in Northern Persia. It is allied to *O. romanowi* (*O. phænicuroides*, subsp. *romanowi*, Bogd.), described in parallel columns with it, which is also found in the same district.

36. *Bianchi on the Birds of the Western Pamir.*

[Zur Ornithologie des westlichen Ausläufer des Pamir und des Alai. Von V. Bianchi. Bull. Acad. Imp. d. Sci. St. Pétersb. xxxi. p. 337 (1886).]

M. Bianchi describes a collection of birds made by M. Grum-Grzmailo, in 1885, in the eastern districts of the Khanate of Bokhara, and placed in his hands by Dr. Strauch. The series consists of 388 specimens (including 10 from the same country obtained by Dr. Rigel), which are referred to 136 species. The greater part of the collection was formed in the western outliers of the Pamir and Alai ranges, only 54 specimens being from the low-lying steppes of Eastern Bokhara. The collection adds 8 species to Severtzoff's previous list of this avifauna (J. f. O. 1875, pp. 168-188). Exact localities, and many interesting notes, are added.

37. *Bogdanow on a new Pheasant.*

[Kurze Bemerkung über *Phasianus komarowi*, n. sp. Von Prof. M. Bogdanow. Bull. Acad. Imp. d. Sci. St. Pétersb. xxx. p. 356 (1886).]

The new species, *Phasianus komarowi*, is from the vicinity of Aschabad, where it is brought to the market in winter. It is probably the same as *P. principalis* Selater; but cf. Seebohm, *supra*, p. 172.

38. *The Bombay Natural History Society.*

[Journal of the Bombay Natural History Society. Edited by E. H. Aitken and R. A. Sterndale. Vol. I. No. 3, July, No. 4, October, 1886.]

We are glad to see that this new Indian journal, which we noticed in our issue for last October (p. 514), is not only continued with commendable regularity, but distinctly improving upon its already satisfactory commencement. In the July number Capt. E. F. Becher's paper "A Sind Lake," with many allusions to birds, is followed by a still more interesting contribution on "The Waters of Western India, British Deccan, and Kandesh," by a Member who retains his incognito, but who is evidently an excellent field-ornithologist as well as sportsman. His second paper in the October number, on the "Waters of the Kondan and Coast," is equally good and will please all classes of readers: we hope he will sign his name to his next article. Mr. J. Davidson, C.S., has a paper on "Birds'-nesting in the Ghats," and Mr. H. Littledale has a contribution on the "Birds of South Gujerat."

39. *Booth on British Birds.*

[Rough Notes on the Birds observed during Twenty Years' Shooting and Collecting in the British Islands. By E. T. Booth. With Plates from Drawings by E. Neale, taken from specimens in the Author's possession. Parts X.-XIII. Folio. London: 1886.]

In Part X. the species figured are the House Sparrow, Black Grouse, Red Grouse, Spoonbill, Grey-lag Goose, Scoter (immature), and Smew (immature). In Part XI., the Rock Dove, Snipe, Curlew Sandpiper, Knot, Puffin (Mr. Booth makes no allusion to the shedding of the outer shell of the bill), Roseate Tern, and Little Gull (immature). In an article on the Arctic Tern and on the species which breed on the Farne Islands, Mr. Booth omits the Common Tern from the catalogue, for the very good reason that he was unable to identify that species; but we can assure him that not only was it breeding there in considerable numbers in 1881, but also that Saunders can show him one of a colony

snared on its eggs in 1865 (long before the passing of the Sea-birds Preservation Bill, be it remarked, for even in the interests of science ornithologists do not infringe the law!). Part XII. contains plates of Siskins and nest, Common Sand-piper, Little and Temminck's Stints, and Sandwich Tern. In Part XIII. we have the young Cuckoo and the Titlark as foster-parent (an unusually pretty plate), Hoopoe, Golden Oriole, Capercaillie, Stone Curlew (heads only, to show the protuberances on the base of the upper mandible in the adult male, but absent in the female), Heron and young in nest, immature male Gadwall, and Red-necked Grebe in both young and adult winter plumages. As before, Mr. Booth's letterpress is excellent reading, and the articles on the species which are not figured, and which are too numerous for mention, are quite as interesting as the others.

40. *Büttikofer on the Birds of Liberia.*

[Zoological Researches in Liberia. A list of Birds collected by Mr. F. X. Stampfli near Monrovia, on the Messurado River, and on the Junk River with its tributaries. By J. Büttikofer. Notes Leyden Mus. viii. p. 243.]

The efforts of Mr. Büttikofer to collect in Liberia have already had important results, which would have been larger had not the unhealthiness of the climate compelled his return to Europe. His work has been continued by Mr. Stampfli, and the present essay gives an account of the collections sent home by the latter traveller. The locality is one of special interest, as it seems to be the meeting-place of the Senegambian and Gold Coast faunæ, such forms as *Parisoma plumbeum*, *Hirundo lucida*, &c. representing the former, while the predominating element is the Gaboon and Gold Coast type, as is evidenced by such species as *Dryotriorchis spectabilis*, *Scotopelia bouvieri* (not *S. ussheri*, curiously enough), *Campophaga quiscalina*, *Nigrita canicapilla* (not *N. emiliae*). The new species of Warbler, *Sylvietta stampflii*, has been submitted to Mr. Sharpe, and is pronounced by him to be undescribed.

41. *Blüttikofer on Sumatran Birds.*

[On a Collection of Birds made by Dr. C. Klaesi in the Highlands of Padang (W. Sumatra) during the winter 1884-85. By J. Büttikofer. Notes Leyden Mus. ix. p. 1.]

Mr. Büttikofer gives a *résumé* of the labours of naturalists in Sumatra, including those of English and Italian as well as Dutch travellers. The number of species supposed to be peculiar to the island is diminishing as the identity of the avifauna with that of the mountains of Malacca becomes apparent; and Dr. Klaesi seems to have confirmed this fact by the very extensive collections he has made, amongst which are such rarities as *Chloropsis venusta*, *Myiophoneus melanurus*, and other species as yet peculiar to the island. Mr. Büttikofer describes two new species, *Hirundinapus klaesi* and *Cissa nigricoronata*, both of which seem to us to rest on somewhat slender foundations. The author's critical notes appear to be excellent; and our colleague, Mr. Hargitt, will doubtless be glad to find that Mr. Büttikofer amply confirms his careful researches into the Woodpeckers of the genus *Hemicercus*, published in this Journal for 1884 (pp. 244-259), a monographic essay which the author appears to have overlooked.

42. *Guillemard's Cruise of the 'Marchesa.'*

[The Cruise of the 'Marchesa' to Kamschatka and New Guinea, with notices of Formosa, Liu-kiu, and various islands of the Malay Archipelago. By F. H. H. Guillemard, M.A., M.D. With maps and numerous woodcuts. 2 vols. 8vo. London: Murray, 1886.]

Dr. Guillemard's narrative of the Cruise of the 'Marchesa' will, we are sure, be read with pleasure and instruction by every naturalist. We have seldom seen a book of travel so well got up and so capitally illustrated. Instead of having to turn to an atlas at every chapter, a series of excellent maps introduced into the text enables us to understand perfectly the exact route of the 'Marchesa' in all the strange places she visited, and the accompanying woodcuts by Keulemans and Whympers are veritable works of art.

The 'Marchesa' is an auxiliary screw-steamer yacht of

420 tons, belonging to Mr. C. T. Kettlewell. She left England in January 1882, and visited Kamschatka, Columbo, Singapore, Formosa, the Liu-kiu Islands, Japan, the Sulu Islands, Northern Borneo, Sumbawa, Celebes, the Moluccas, and New Guinea, returning home in April 1884. Large collections of natural history were made in the Malay and Papuan regions, and the birds, which numbered about 3000 specimens, have already been described by Dr. Guillemard in an excellent series of papers read before the Zoological Society of London. Many additional interesting notices of birds and bird-life will be found in the present volume, which we heartily commend to the notice of all ornithologists.

43. *Harvie-Brown on North Rona.*

[Further Notes on North Rona, being an Appendix to John Swinburne's Paper on that Island in the Proc. R. Physical Soc. Edinb. 1883-84. By J. A. Harvie-Brown. *Op. cit.* ix. pp. 284-299.]

Mr. John Swinburne's paper was noticed in 'The Ibis,' 1884, p. 347; and in June 1885, North Rona was again visited by Mr. Harvie-Brown and Mr. Hugh G. Barclay of Norwich. In 1886 Mr. R. M. Barrington stayed three days there, and the collected results of these visits appear in the present appendix, the number of species observed being now increased to 29, against 18 in the former list.

44. *Lilford's 'British Birds.'*

[Coloured Figures of the Birds of the British Islands. Issued by Lord Lilford, F.Z.S. &c., President of the British Ornithologists' Union. Part II., May, Part III., August 1886; Part IV., January 1887. 8vo. London.]

In the three Parts which have appeared since our last notice, more than a year ago, coloured plates are given of the Black-throated Thrush, Desert Wheatear, Whinchat, Stonechat, Lesser Whitethroat, Garden Warbler, Great Reed Warbler, Savi's Warbler, Sedge Warbler, Hobby (2 plates), Arctic and White-spotted Bluethroats, White's Thrush, Icterine Warbler, Reed Warbler, Marsh Warbler, Wood Warbler, Swallow, Martin, Sand Martin, White-bellied

Swift, Scops and Little Owls, Dartford Warbler, Goldcrest, Long-tailed Titmouse, Coal Titmouse, Wren, Tree Creeper, Nutcracker, Wood Lark, and Sparrow Hawk (3 plates). The standard of excellence is fully maintained, although, of course, some of the illustrations are more effective than others. We cannot help suspecting that the artist has not had a genuine specimen of the Marsh Warbler to colour from; for certainly the bird figured has all the rufous tint of the Reed Warbler.

45. *Macpherson on the Birds of Skye.*

[The Birds of Skye, with special reference to the Parish of Duirinish. Part I. 1886. By the Rev. H. A. Macpherson, M.A. Proc. R. Phys. Soc. Edinburgh, 1886, p. 118.]

This pleasantly written paper consists of field-notes on about 153 species, of which *Sylvia nisoria*, *Sitta cæsia*, and *Puffinus major* are new to the Hebrides, and the first is, indeed, new to Scotland. As this contribution is called Part I., we may expect to receive an account of the birds of other parts of Skye at some future time.

46. *Menzbier on the Migration Routes of Russian Birds.*

[Die Zugstrassen der Vögel im europäischen Russland. Von Dr. Michael v. Menzbier. Bull. Soc. Imp. Nat. Moscou, 1886, no. 2.]

Dr. Menzbier discusses the lately much-vexed question of the routes adopted by northern birds on migration at some length (80 pp.), and offers an improved scheme of arrangement of Palmén's six "*Vie*," which, as regards the Palæarctic Region, he would prefer to place under two principal heads, (1) *Vie marinæ litorales* and (2) *Vie continentales et submarinæ litorales*, and several sub-heads. At the conclusion of his article Dr. Menzbier puts his results into ten separate conclusions, for an account of which we must refer our readers to the original. An interesting map of European Russia shows the "*via norvegica*," "*via baltica*," "*via pontica*," and "*via caspica*," which appear to be the four principal routes adopted.

47. *Menzbier on a new Green Woodpecker.*

[Notiz über einen neuen Grünspecht, *Gecinus flavirostris*, n. sp. Von Dr. M. Menzbier. Bull. Soc. Imp. Nat. Moscou, 1886, no. 2.]

The new species is allied to *G. viridis*, but is distinguished by its yellow bill and other particulars. Two specimens (♂ and ♀) were obtained by M. Zaroudnoï in Transcaspia, on the middle course of the Murghab.

48. '*Ornis*,' Vol. I. No. 4, Vol. II. Nos. 1-3.

[*Ornis*: Internationale Zeitschrift für die gesammte Ornithologie. Herausgegeben von Dr. R. Blasius und Dr. G. v. Hayek. I. Jahrg. 4 Heft., II. Jahrg. 1, 2, und 3 Heft. Wien.]

In the numbers of our contemporary which have reached us since our last notice ('*Ibis*' 1886, p. 519), the first contains the conclusion of Messrs. K. v. Dalla Torre and V. v. Tschusi's long report on ornithological observations in Austria and Hungary for 1883, the total number of species amounting to 314. Short papers from various correspondents are followed by some interesting notes on the ornithology of Friesland and the portion of Holland adjacent to the Zuider Zee, by M. Herman Albarda of Leeuwarden, comprising remarks on 202 species. A painfully suggestive feature is the total omission of the Spoonbill, a bird which only a very few years ago bred in colonies near Amsterdam, but for which the Editors of '*The Ibis*' sought in vain last May, its old haunts having been drained.

To judge from the report of the permanent Committee in the opening Part for 1886, plenty of energy is shown in inviting cooperation, and responses have been received from almost all the regions of the earth. Prof. Lütken sends his second report (1885) on 157 species of Danish Birds, and our valued coadjutor Herr Gätke does the same for Heligoland; but the latter we have already noticed in its English version ('*Ibis*,' 1886, p. 516). A very important paper is the translation from the Swedish original (Stockholm Akad. Öfversigt, 1871) of Herr Meves's narrative of his expedition to North-western Russia in the summer of 1869, with notes by

Herr E. F. von Homeyer. It has been repeated by one ornithologist after another, not excepting the most omniscient, that the Snowy Owl, *Nyctea scandiaca*, has no ear-tufts; but Herr Meves asserts that it has, and that, although short, they are distinctly visible (p. 284). With regard to *Lanius excubitor* and the disputed specific validity of *L. major*, he maintains that he has found every gradation between them, as Professor Collett has substantially done. A list of Swedish birds by Dr. Sundström is followed by a translation into German, with notes, by Herr Meves, of the Introduction to Sundevall's 'Tentamen,' published in Swedish and French. Then comes a valuable paper on the birds observed in Iceland, by H. Benedict Gröndal, who, amongst other things, has settled the somewhat doubted occurrence of *Turdus pilaris* in Iceland; for he saw and examined one, alive but exhausted, taken on the 6th December, 1885. He makes a slip of the pen with regard to the Snow Bunting, *Plectrophanes nivalis*, by calling it *Montifringilla nivalis*; but it is almost needless to say that the true Snow Finch has never been found in Iceland. There is also a short paper by Herr P. Nielsen on the breeding of the Black-tailed Godwit and Water Rail in that country. A report on the birds of Livonia, comprising only 171 species, is succeeded by some valuable remarks upon 261 birds observed in the Dobrudecha and Bulgaria, by Count A. Alléon, already well known for his articles upon the avifauna of the vicinity of Constantinople.

49. *Oustalet on two new Species of Birds from the Cape Verd Islands.*

[Description d'espèces nouvelles d'Oiseaux provenant des Iles du Cap-Vert. Par M. E. Oustalet. Ann. d. Sci. Nat. xvi. (1883).]

The 'Talisman' brought home from one of the islands of this group, the Ilha branca (the home of the rare Lizard *Macroscincus coctei*), an adult Shearwater which is described as new by the name of *Puffinus edwardsii*; also a Sparrow, distinguished from *Passer jagoensis* as *Passer brancoensis*, sp. n. These two new species appear to have escaped the eye of the

Recorder of "Aves" in the 'Zoological Record' for 1883, for which reason we think it well to mention them, even so long after date.

50-52. *Oustalet on new Birds from the Congo.*

[50. Description d'un Oiseau nouveau de l'Afrique Occidentale. Par M. E. Oustalet. *Le Naturaliste*, 1884.

51. Description d'espèces nouvelles d'Oiseaux provenant du Congo. *Id.* *Ann. d. Sci. Nat.* xvii. Art. 8 (1884).

52. Notice sur quelques Oiseaux nouveaux du Congo rapportés par les Naturalistes attachés à la Mission de M. le Comte de Brazza. *Id.* *Le Naturaliste*, 1886.]

No. 50. M. Petit brought home from Landana, Congo, the female of a Rail, for which M. Oustalet has constituted a new genus *Psammocrex*, the type of which is *Psammocrex petiti*, sp. n. This fact has also escaped the Recorder of "Aves" in the 'Zoological Record,' and is noticed for the reason stated above.

No. 51. This paper treats of two other new species obtained by the same collector—*Campophaga cerulea* from Landana, and *Ixonotus landanæ* from Cayambe.

No. 52. Among the results of Count de Brazza's mission are the following new species :—*Centropus savorgnani* from Franceville, *Coccytes brazzæ* and *Dendropicus pecilei* from Diele, *Saxicola tholloni* from Lékéti, *Cossypha pecilei* and *Phedina brazzæ* from Nganciou.

53-54. *Oustalet on new or rare Species in the Paris Museum.*

[53. Description de deux espèces nouvelles faisant partie de la collection ornithologique du Muséum d'Histoire Naturelle de Paris. Par M. E. Oustalet. *Le Naturaliste*, 1885.

54. Notices sur quelques espèces nouvelles ou peu connues de la collection ornithologique du Muséum. *Id.* *Nouv. Archiv. d. Mus.* sér. 2, viii. p. 255.]

In the former of these papers M. Oustalet describes as new a Hornbill, *Anthracoceros marchei*, found in the islands of Palawan, Busuanga, and Balabac; and a Humming-bird, *Chrysolampis gigliolii*, from Colombia. In the second paper

he gives a full description, with a coloured plate, of the rare Argus Pheasant, *Rheinartius ocellatus*, followed by a list of thirty-two species from Annam, of which *Ægithina philipi*, from Hué, is considered to be new. Full particulars and coloured plates are also given of *Cyclopsittacus salvadorii* and *Ptilopus (Rhamphiculus) marchii*, originally described by M. Oustalet in 1880, and of *Numida marchii*, described by him in 1882.

55. *Pelzeln and Lorenz on the Types in the Vienna Museum.*

[Typen der ornithologischen Sammlung des k. k. naturhistorischen Hofmuseums. Von August von Pelzeln und Dr. Ludwig von Lorenz. Ann. d. k. k. Naturh. Hofmuseums, Bd. i. p. 249.]

This is the first portion of a very useful paper—an account of the *types* in the great and renowned ornithological collection of the Imperial Museum of Natural History at Vienna. Besides the types, those specimens are mentioned which are actually equivalents of types, as having been compared with types by, and received from, the describer of the species. These are called *authentic examples*. The arrangement followed is nearly that of Gray's 'Hand-list,' and the present instalment contains the Rapaces, Fissirostres, and Tenuirostres.

56. *Schperck on the Birds of the Amur.*

['Rossiya dailnayo vostoka.' By Franz Schperck. Being vol. xiv. of the *Zapiski* of the Imp. Russian Geogr. Soc. St. Petersburg, 1885.]

The author of this complete work on the Amur province has resided there for ten years. A list is given (pp. 358–362) of the birds observed, consisting of Rapaces 27, Scansores 14, Oscines 121, Gallinæ 13, Grallæ 43, Natatores 44. A number of new, or supposed new, species belonging to various genera are named *amurensis*, the exception being *Anas chinganensis*, but we can find no descriptions of them in this work.

57. *Shufeldt on Injuries to the Beak in Birds.*

[On Injuries of the Beak in Birds, and the Method of Repair. By R. W. Shufeldt. Journ. Comp. Med. and Surg., Oct. 1886.]

Dr. Shufeldt describes the curious mode of healing shown in the case of a Raven that had had the front portion of its upper mandible shot away, and was subsequently found to be well nourished and in good plumage. The "cut edges of the osseous bill met each other in the middle line and united completely by bony union."

58-59. *Sousa on African Birds.*

[58. Additamento à lista das aves collegidas em Africa de 1884 a 1885 pelos Srs. Capello e Ivens. Por José Augusto de Souza. *Jorn. d. Sci. Math., Phys. e Natur.* Lisboa, 1886, no. xliii. pp. 151-153.

59. Aves de Angola. *Id.* *Tom. cit.* pp. 154-170.]

The first paper contains eleven additions to the former list of species collected by the above explorers (see *Ibis*, 1886, p. 522), the only novelty for the Angolan avifauna being *Neophron pileatus*. The second paper treats of three collections made by Sr. José de Anchieta, containing 92 species, of which *Barbatula bocagei* and *Bradyornis benguellensis* are said to be new to science, while *Syrnium nuchale*, which Mr. R. B. Sharpe described from the Quanza, is a novelty for the Lisbon Museum. A species of *Drymoica* and one of *Hyphantornis* are, as yet, undetermined.

60. *S. Swinburne on Oceanic Birds.*

[Notes on Birds observed on various Voyages between England and the Cape of Good Hope. By Spearman Swinburne. (Communicated by J. J. Dalglish.) *Proc. R. Physical Soc. Edinb.* ix. pp. 193-201.]

This interesting paper contains an account of the different birds observed on a series of voyages between Southampton and Cape Town, from July 1884 to September 1886. Of the 66 species enumerated, 16 are "land" birds and 6 are migratory waders, and we detect nothing very remarkable as regards the distribution of the latter within the latitudes and at the dates mentioned, all these occurrences being in the northern hemisphere. On future voyages Mr. Swinburne will probably be more fortunate in this respect. It is, however, with regard to the pelagic

species, especially the Petrels, that his observations have the greater value, and, good as they are, they would be improved by the insertion of dates. For instance, the very point that we want to know with regard to the widely distributed Great Shearwater, *Puffinus major*, is the time of year during which it frequents the southern hemisphere; for we suspect it is there that its breeding-places will eventually be discovered, and we have great doubts with regard to its recorded breeding off the southern coast of Greenland. At present the evidence obtained all tends to show that this species merely frequents the waters of the North Atlantic from June to the end of October, after which date it is seldom found to the north of the tropic of Cancer; and these remarks apply to some extent to the Sooty Shearwater, *P. griseus*. If a specimen of the large Shearwater from the Azores could be obtained it might prove to be *P. borealis*, and not, as is generally supposed, *P. kuhli* of the Mediterranean. Further information respecting the distribution of the Skuas is much to be desired, especially as regards dates. Meanwhile we are very thankful to Mr. Swinburne for what he has done, in spite of the difficulties which necessarily attend upon voyages by mail-steamers, and we trust that our remarks may stimulate his zeal.

61. *Vian on the Young in Down of the Ptilopædes.*

[Monographie des Poussins des Oiseaux d'Europe qui naissent vêtus de duvet (*Ptilopædes*, Sundevall). Par J. Vian. Bull. Soc. Zool. de France, 1886, pp. 340-419.]

M. Vian's paper treats of the downy young of the European species of Gallinæ and Grallæ; the latter Order comprising the Bustards, Plovers, Scolopacidæ, Rails, Cranes, Herodiones, and Flamingo. As regards the Herons, &c., he somewhat naively remarks that "one would hesitate to admit them among the birds which are hatched covered with down, if it were not that they *incontestably* belong to an Order in which all the nestlings are clothed on emerging from the egg." This is one way of settling the question, with a vengeance!

62. *Vian on Asiatic Warblers in Heligoland.*

[Notice sur les espèces asiatiques du genre Pouillot (*Phylloscopus*) capturées dans l'île d'Heligoland. Par J. Vian. *Tom. cit.* pp. 652-670.]

In this paper M. Vian discusses the eight rare species of *Phylloscopi* which have been captured in Heligoland; but however useful this review may be to those who do not read English, it will be of less service to our readers, who are already familiar with the writings of Mr. Seebohm and others upon the genus which M. Vian misnames.

63. *Vorderman on the Birds of Borneo.*

[Liste des Oiseaux de Borneo. Par A. G. Vorderman. *Natuurk. Tijds. voor Nederl. Indië*, Deel xlv. Afl. 3.]

In this useful compilation the author commences with a list of the publications relating to the ornithology of this huge island, merely the outer shell of which has yet been pecked at by naturalists. The list itself contains the names of 472 species, of which *Porphyrio indicus*, *Hydrophasianus chirurgus*, *Dendrocygna vagans*, and *Podiceps tricolor* have been added to the Bornean catalogue by M. Vorderman.

64. *Zaroudnoï and Menzbier on the Birds of the Trans-Caspian Regions.*

[Oiseaux de la contrée Trans-Caspienne. Par M. Zaroudnoï, avec préface de M. Menzbier. *Bull. Soc. Imp. Nat. Moscou*, 1885, no. 2.]

This interesting paper gives an account of the avifauna of the long oasis, Ahal-Téké, which extends from Kizil-Arvat on the west to Gjaouarse on the east, and may be described as lying between the Kopepète-Dagh range and the desert of Kara-Koum. M. Zaroudnoï's explorations lasted from June to September 1884, during which time he collected 600 specimens, assigned by Dr. Menzbier, with a few reservations, to 184 species. In May 1885 M. Zaroudnoï started on his second voyage, this time for Horosan and Northern Afghanistan; and it is not improbable that when the results of this expedition are known, they may prove similar to those obtained by Dr. Aitchison, the naturalist of the Afghan Delimitation Commission.